



# *Milwaukee County*

## Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release  
Contact: Harold Mester 414/278-4051  
haroldmester@milwcnty.com

### **COUNTY BOARD FOCUSES ON PARKS PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE**

*Supervisors working to reverse years of neglect and deferred maintenance*

**Milwaukee, WI** – In the 2008 County Budget adopted November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors voted to restore \$3.5 million to the Parks Department, including funding for multiple Parks Maintenance Worker, Special Events, and Community Center positions that were abolished in the County Executive's proposal.

On a veto-proof 16-3 vote, the Board restored 50 full-time Park Maintenance Worker positions, while leaving 16 vacant Park Maintenance Worker positions unfunded. "In recent years, the Board has already approved major reductions in full-time staffing, transitioning to more *seasonal* workers. We feel we're currently at the optimal mix of full-time and seasonal staffing," said Supervisor Lynne De Bruin, who Chairs the County Board's Parks, Energy and Environment Committee. "A year-round full-time, *seasoned* staff is able to perform the necessary maintenance work on Parks buildings and handle snow removal, which is critical during our Wisconsin winters. They also handle repairs on all parks equipment, small machines and other items such as picnic tables. A full-time staff lets us complete these duties without outsourcing." With almost 15,000 acres, Milwaukee County has one of the largest parks systems in the country.

The Board also voted 16-3 to increase funding for deferred Parks maintenance projects by approximately \$650,000. "The County Executive continues to ignore the deferred maintenance needs of our deteriorating Parks System, which have escalated to more than \$300 million dollars," said Supervisor Gerry Broderick, the only member of the County Board on both the Parks and Finance Committees. "We're trying to reverse that. If the County Executive vetoes the Board's decision to preserve our parks and address these maintenance needs, those vetoes will easily be overridden."

*The County Board will consider any vetoes from the County Executive in reference to the 2008 County Budget on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.*